

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O 220755Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3396
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 11123

EXDIS
BOMBAY FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, IN, US
SUBJECT: TARAPUR

REF: NEW DELHI 11007

1. THE DCM SAW FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH BRIEFLY ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 21. SINGH HAS BEEN ILL AND HAD JUST RETURNED TO THE OFFICE. IT BECAME APPARENT EARLY IN THE CONVERSATION THAT NEITHER KEWAL SINGH NOR TEJA, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, WAS AWARE OF THE NEW U.S. DRAFT LETTER OR THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE DCM THEREFORE PRESENTED A COPY OF THE DRAFT AND EXPLAINED WHY WE HAD NOT FOUND SETHNA'S ORIGINAL RESPONSE A SUFFICIENT BASIS ON WHICH WE COULD RESUME SHIPMENT. THE DCM STRESSED THAT IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO SEEK A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THIS SPECIFIC PROBLEM. THERE WERE TO BE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS IN REGARD TO NUCLEAR MATTERS DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, AS AGREED TO WITH KEWAL SINGH WHEN HE STOPPED IN WASHINGTON. IT SEEMED WELL THAT WE TRY TO GET THE TARAPUR PROBLEM OUT OF THE WAY. THIS TIME WE WERE PROPOSING A DRAFT SO THAT WE COULD CONSIDER IT INFORMALLY TOGETHER.

2. THE DCM EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAD HAD A LONG INFORMAL TALK WITH INDIAN AEC CHAIRMAN WETHNA IN CONFIDENTIAL

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BOMBAY AND SHOWN HIM A COPY OF THE DRAFT LETTER.

SETHNA HAD SUGGESTED WAYS IN WHICH THE LETTER MIGHT BE MODIFIED TO MAKE IT SATISFACTORY. KEWAL SINGH SAID THAT SETHNA WAS IN DELHI BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO HAVE ONLY A BRIEF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HIM. SETHNA HAD CERTAIN WORDS IN MIND BUT DID NOT MENTION A PARTICULAR FORMULATION. HE WAS IN DELHI ON OTHER BUSINESS (A PARLIAMENT DEBATE ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY).

3. KEWAL SIGH SAID THAT HE WOULD TALK TO SETHNA, WHO WOULD OFFER "TECHNICAL ADVICE" AND MENTION THIS MATTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE AGREED HAT IT WAS BEST TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM NOW. HE MENTIONED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S APPROACH TO BUILDING COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S. AND OVERCOMING PROBLEMS. HE SAID WE SHOULD APPROACH THIS MATTER IN THIS SPIRIT. HE COMMENTED THAT NEVERTHELESS INDIA DOES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH CERTAIN WORDS.

4. KEWAL SINGH SAID HE HOPED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY WITHIN A WEEK WITH A REACTION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT.

MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MISS MATTESON, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

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